

2017

Guide to the Esther LaPorta Donor Relations records

Esther LaPorta

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Guide to the Esther LaPorta Donor Relations records

Overview of the Collection

Title: Esther LaPorta Donor Relations records

Dates: 1938-1999

Creator: LaPorta, Esther

Quantity: 3 boxes, (1.5 linear feet)

Summary: These records include Esther LaPorta's research materials about the University of San Diego founding, interview transcripts for Author and Marge Hughes, and Capital Campaign materials. Research materials include copies of correspondence between Bishop Charles Buddy and members of the Nolan family as well as between Bishop Buddy and Mother Rosalie Hill.

Identification: USDA_2012_004

Language: English

Repository: [University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections](#)
Copley Library
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110
Telephone: 619-260-2730
spcoll@sandiego.edu

Biographical Note

Esther LaPorta served in a variety of roles during her 16 years at the University of San Diego, with particular focus on fundraising and donor relations. Her tenure includes:

Assistant Campaign Director Capital Programs, 1990-1992
Director of Corporate Relations, 1992-1995

Director of Donor Relations, 1995-2000
Executive Director of Development, 2001-2002
Associate VP of University Relations, 2004-2006.

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Scope and Content Note

Esther LaPorta collected these records during her tenure at the University of San Diego. LaPorta gathered historical records about the founding of USD to provide context during donor events. Correspondence between Bishop Charles Buddy and Mother Rosalie Hill, for example, were used to construct the narrative for the 1999 President's Dinner. Correspondence between Bishop Charles Buddy and members of the Nolan family, articles and manuscripts written about the founding of the San Diego College for Women and the early history of the University of San Diego, and records pertaining to President Author Hughes are also included. Of particular significance are interview transcripts of Author and Marge Hughes. These interviews were conducted in March of 1995 as the Hughes' were preparing to retire from the University.

Documents pertaining to the University of San Diego Capital Campaign, as well as artifacts used to recognize significant donors are also included in these records. Capital Campaign records include reports and evaluations of the campaign.

The bulk of these records are photocopies. The location of the originals is unknown.

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Arrangement

These records are arranged chronologically into three series:

[Series I. University History Research](#)

[Series II. Capital Campaign](#)

[Series III. Artifacts](#)

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Restrictions

These records are open for research.

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Related Material

One photograph of Author Hughes has been moved to photograph storage for preservation purposes. A copy remains with the collection.

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Index Terms

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the online catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Buddy, Charles Francis, 1887-1966
Crane, Gertrude Bertina Nolan, 1897-1953
Hill, Rosalie Clifton, Mother, 1878-1964
Hughes, Author E.
Hughes, Marge
LaPorta, Esther
Nolan, Julia A., 1887-1982
Nolan, Thomas F., -1959
San Diego College for Women
University of San Diego
San Diego (Calif.)
benefactors
commemorations
fund raising
interviews
presidential inaugurations
presidents' retirement
presidents' spouses

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Administrative Information

Preferred citation

[Folder Title], Box # Folder #, Esther LaPorta Donor Relations records,
Copley Library, University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Esther LaPorta.

Processing Information

Initial processing of this collection was conducted by Tessie Camina in 2012. Further processing was conducted by Ashley Toutain in 2017.

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Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: University History Research, created 1938-1999; gathered 1990-1998

The bulk of the records in this series pertain to the founding of the University of San Diego and to President Author Hughes. Founding records include correspondence between Bishop Charles Buddy and members of the Nolan Family, as well as correspondence between Bishop Charles Buddy and Mother Rosalie Hill. The Nolan family correspondence is primarily between Bishop Buddy and Gertrude, Julia, and Tom Nolan. Frequent reference is made to their mother Julia, brother Peter, family wellbeing, and plans for visitation. Business correspondence regarding material made by Julia Nolan's Class Rings, Class Pins, Class Ribbons company for Bishop Buddy are included. After Gertrude Nolan's passing in 1953, correspondence between Julia and Bishop Buddy centered on an altar, honoring Gertrude, to be built in the Immaculata. Julia provided significant funding for the altar's creation. Correspondence between Bishop Buddy and Mother Hill regarding the University founding was gathered primarily to create the script for the 1999 President's Dinner.

Of particular note within this series are the interview transcripts with the outgoing President Author Hughes and his wife Marge Hughes. In her interview, Marge Hughes discusses her perceptions about life as the First Lady of USD. She discusses her first impressions of the University and how her life was shaped by being the First Lady. In his interview, President Hughes discussed his impressions upon arrival at USD, his challenges and accomplishments at USD, and his plans for the future.

University history records dating 1938 to 1973 are photocopies of original documents. These were gathered for Esther LaPorta's donor event research. For this reason, two dates are often represented. The earlier dates are the years of creation for the original documents that have been photocopied. The later date represents the years LaPorta was gathering her research.

Historical Note

While information about members of the Nolan family is limited, the websites www.ancestry.com and www.findagrave.com provide some context. Information gathered includes: Gertrude Bertina Nolan Crane, 1897-1953, became an English teacher and completed four years of college. It appears that she resided in Chicago throughout her life. Julia A. Nolan lived 1887-1982. Rev. Thomas F. Nolan died in 1959. During his life he wrote editorials for the *Southern Cross* and the *Mission Tower*.

Their mother Julia A. Deady Nolan, 1862-1958 and brother Rev. Peter E. Nolan are mentioned in the letters. Peter E. Nolan was born December 4, 1894 and did ecclesiastical study in Spain.

Box Folder

- 1 1 Nolan Family Correspondence between Bishop Buddy and Gertrude Nolan, created 1939-1944; gathered 1995
- 2 Nolan Family Correspondence between Bishop Buddy and Julia Nolan, created 1938-1954; gathered 1995
- 3 Nolan Family Correspondence between Bishop Buddy and Reverend Thomas F. Nolan, created 1944-1953; gathered 1995
- 4 Nolan Family Correspondence between Bishop Buddy to Sister M. Reginald, created 1943-1951; gathered 1995
- 5 Nolan Family Correspondence between Bishop Buddy and Sister Ann, created 1938; gathered 1995
- 6 President Alice Hayes Inauguration Program, 1995 November 12
- 7 President Author Hughes Inauguration as President, 1971 December 5
- 8 President Hughes University History materials, 1945-1990
- 9 President Hughes Correspondence, 1991-1998
[Correspondence largely related to funding campaigns.]
- 10 Marge Hughes Interviews, 1995 March
[Transcript of interview conducted prior to Author Hughes retirement. Interview topics include the Hughes' experiences moving onto campus, their children's experience, and Hughes' experience at the University of San Diego.]
- 11 President Author Hughes Interviews, 1995 March
[Transcript of interview conducted prior to Author Hughes retirement. Interview topics include why Hughes chose the University of San Diego, his impressions of USD at the outset, challenges and accomplishments, and his plans for the future.]
- 12 President Hughes Photograph, 1996
- 13 Bishop Buddy and Mother Hill Correspondence, 1942-1964; 1999
[Includes script for the January 9, 1999 President's Dinner.]
- 14 Bishop Buddy and Mother Hill Correspondence Index, 1998 April
- 15 Foundation of the San Diego College for Women, created 1942-1952; gathered 1998

Series II: Capital Campaign, 1987-1996

This series includes documents from the Capital Campaign, Education for a New Age. Records include reports and evaluations about the campaigns successes and failures.

Box Folder

- 1 16 Case Statement, 1987 April 14
- 17 Education for a New Age Analysis and Evaluation, 1991-1992
- 18 Education for a New Age Final Report, 1993 June 10
- 19 Education for a New Age Reports and Correspondence, 1993
- 20 Education for a New Age Collections, 1993-1994

Series III: Artifacts, undated

These artifacts were used to recognize significant donors to the University of San Diego. Statues are accompanied by a note from Esther LaPorta about their use.

Box

2 Angeles De Alcala Statue, undated

[The Angeles de Alcala statue was awarded to significant USD donors during President Author Hughes' administration.]

Box

3 Edward Marshall Boehm Porcelain Dove, undated

[The Boehm Dove was presented by President Alice Hayes to recognize philanthropy.]